

Teacher Licensure Glossary

Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) – A required three-year program for initially licensed teachers that provides mentoring support and evaluation services. (See ILT-Initial Teacher Program)

Birth-through-Kindergarten License (B-K) - Birth-Kindergarten programs are designed to prepare educators to work with children, birth through age five, with and without disabilities. Each institution of higher education (4-year colleges/universities) offers an inclusive, interdisciplinary course of study leading to the North Carolina B-K teacher license. Individuals completing the requirements for this license will be prepared to enter the profession of teaching infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners in public schools, child care programs, and developmental day centers. Teachers will also acquire skills to assist the families of young children. The interdisciplinary approach includes early childhood education, special education, child and family studies, and elementary education.

Birth-through-Kindergarten Teaching Standards - See Attachment 1: Standards and Indicators for Teacher Education Programs

Continuing Licensure (Standard Professional II) – A professional school personnel license that must be renewed every 5 years. *

NC DPI/Licensure Section - North Carolina Department of Public Instruction/Licensure Section is authorized by the North Carolina State Board of Education to carry out the policy established for teacher licensure in North Carolina (http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state_board/).

Formative Evaluation - Ongoing assessments of strengths and areas for development; used to identify strategies for professional development. *

IHEs – Institutions of Higher Education (four-year colleges/universities) with approved teacher education programs. *

Individual Growth Plan (IGP) – A formal document developed by the mentor in cooperation with the licensed teacher and site administrator/director. This document outlines the professional growth goals for the teacher, and proposes strategies for increasing one's skills. *

Initial Licensure - The first license granted to practice the teaching profession in North Carolina based upon successful completion of an approved IHE preparation program. * Initial licensure includes the lateral entry provisional B-K and B-K Standard Professional 1 licenses.

Initially Licensed Teacher (ILT) file - A collection of evidences regarding the performance of a beginning teacher. * (OSR-TLU will maintain a cumulative file on each teacher, which includes but is not limited to Individual Growth Plans (IGP), performance evaluations (PKKTPAI), and evidence of completed professional development to meet initial and continuing licensure requirements. (See BTSP -Beginning Teacher Support Program)

Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) – standards developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium. These standards reflect the requisite knowledge, skills, and the attitudes necessary for teachers starting their career. * B-K teacher education competencies align with the INTASC standards and PKKTPAI functions.

Lateral Entry Teacher Program (LETP) – A process for granting entry into the teaching profession (lateral entry license) for up to three school years, while the individual completes requirements for the designated teaching area (minimum of 6 semester hours per year).

Licensure Only Plan – A plan issued to a teacher candidate with a BA/BS degree who is not employed in a teaching position. A Licensure Only Plan is written by a four-year college or university outlining courses and requirements that must be successfully completed to attain teacher licensure.

Mentor – An individual assigned to provide emotional, instructional and organizational support to a beginning (initially licensed) teacher (through the Beginning Teacher Support Program). Mentors need knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be effective.

Plan of Study – A plan issued by a four-year college or university or a NC Regional Alternative Licensing Center that outlines courses and requirements that a lateral entry or provisionally licensed teacher must complete (or clear) to attain teacher licensure.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument (PKKTPAI) – A validated instrument used for the assessment of teachers. * Initially licensed More at Four teachers are evaluated four times each year of the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP), and during the five-year license renewal cycle. **For more information see** <http://education.uncc.edu/pkktpai/>

Regional Accrediting Agencies – Council for Higher Education or CHEA. Accreditation is a process of external quality review used by higher education to scrutinize colleges, universities and educational programs for quality assurance and quality improvement. In the United States, accreditation is carried out by private, non-profit organizations designed for this specific purpose. Institutions and educational programs seek accredited status as a means of demonstrating their academic quality to students and the public and to become eligible for federal funds. **For more information see** <http://www.chea.org/institutions/index.cfm> or <http://www.chea.org/search/>

Regional Alternative Licensing Centers (RALC) – Regional Offices established by the NC State Board of Education (SBE) that are authorized to evaluate and prescribe plans of study that will lead to teacher licensure in North Carolina. **For more information see** <http://www.ralc.ccs.k12.nc.us/>

Standard Professional I License (SPI) – A three-year license, which allows the teacher to begin practicing the profession. To be issued a **Standard Professional I License**, an individual must complete an approved teacher education program and meet the federal requirements to be designative “highly qualified.” This designation (HQ) is not applicable to B-K licensed teachers assigned to teach in pre-k classrooms. *

Standard Professional II License (SPII) – A continuing license that allows the teacher to serve on an ongoing basis. A **Standard Professional II License** must be renewed every five years. *

Summative Evaluation – Assessment and rating of performance in relation to established criteria (Pre-K-K Teacher Performance Appraisal Instrument [PKKTPAI]).*

Teacher Licensure Unit (TLU) – Located with the Office of School Readiness/NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the TLU is authorized to administer and manage initial the Lateral Entry Teacher Support Program (LETP), the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP), and the License Renewal process for More at Four (MAF) teachers in **nonpublic** schools. The TLU collaborates with the NC DPI Licensure Section to ensure that MAF teachers in **nonpublic** schools meet teacher licensure requirements as set forth in NC State Board of Education policy.

Additional links and resources

*NC Department of Public Instruction Licensure Manual

NC Regional Alternative Licensing Centers <http://www.ralc.ccs.k12.nc.us/>

The Pre-Kindergarten & K Teachers' Performance Appraisal Instrument (PKKTPAI)
<http://education.uncc.edu/pkktpai/>